

Nature & You

News and Events from the Missouri Department of Conservation • January/February 2015



Nature never sleeps

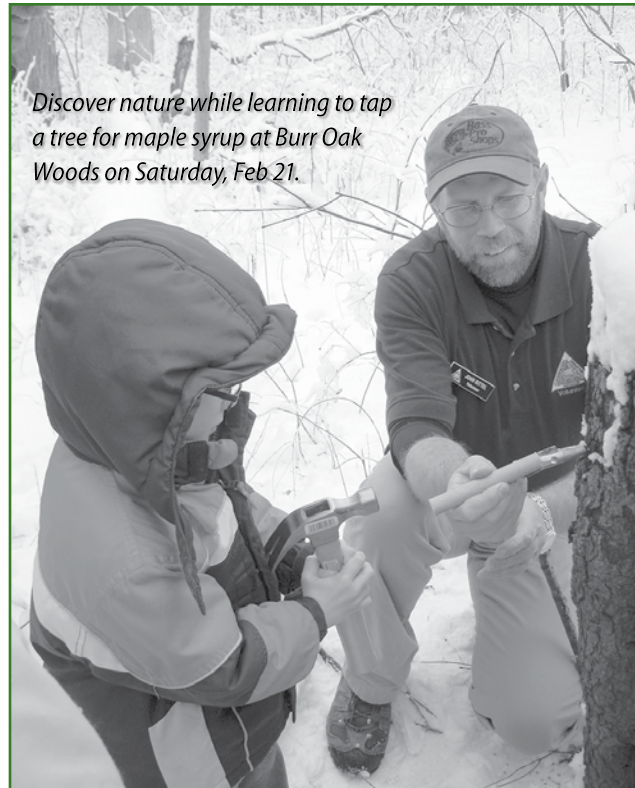
Winter is a fine time to get outdoors and discover nature

For cabin fever relief in the heart of winter, step outside. Mother Nature may slow up in winter but nature never stops changing as the seasons revolve. Outdoor sports continue, too, especially on those days when sun and warmth appear.

For example, from mid-January to late February nature offers us a sweet reward for our patience throughout the long winter. The sap from sugar maples and other native trees begins to flow. It's a perfect opportunity to head outside. You can collect sap to make delicious, homemade natural syrup.

Sunny days with above freezing temperatures followed by freezing nights are the ideal combination for the sap to flow. Sap is collected by drilling a small hole into the trunk of the tree, inserting a 'tap' and collecting the sap that runs out. Then the sap is boiled to steam off most of the water, which leaves sweet syrup. Depending on the tree species, it takes at least 40 gallons of sap to boil down to just one gallon of syrup. But even a couple of gallons of sap boiled down will give you enough syrup for you and your family to enjoy on hot pancakes or drizzled on popcorn. Sugar maples are a great choice for a tree to tap. But if you don't have those, walnut trees produce an excellent sap as well. If you would like to learn about this process and taste a few samples from local trees, **Burr Oak Woods Nature Center** is offering a maple sugar event 1 to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 21. Registration begins Jan. 2.

Winter's snowy days can be a rewarding time for bird watching. Simply hang a bird feeder in a location that is easy to see from your favorite chair or couch, fill, and watch as



Discover nature while learning to tap a tree for maple syrup at Burr Oak Woods on Saturday, Feb. 21.

birds flock to take advantage of the buffet you have created.

Can't find the time to keep a feeder filled at your house? Then come to Discovery Center and take advantage of ours. We have a variety of feeders right outside our windows and plenty of comfortable chairs and binoculars for your use. So come on down and relax inside while watching the birds. Or better yet, you can bundle up and take a walk in our gardens to see even more birds.

Don't forget that kids enjoy the outdoors in winter. Put on the warm boots, gloves and coats and get them outside. Winter is a fine time for exploring. No leaves on the trees makes even the same old patch of trees new and exciting. When snow is on the ground you can follow tracks and note daily routines of squirrels, rabbits and deer. Don't have a favorite patch of woods to explore? No worries, you can visit our Sycamore Station nature play area at **Anita B. Gorman Discovery Center** and explore the hidden trail, make a fort, or even

try your hand at creating a snowman or snow animal.

Winter in a new year doesn't mean you have to put away all the hunting gear. January and February are a great time to visit a shooting range. Shooters young and old can visit the range to sight in their .22 caliber rifles for accuracy. Then they can head outdoors to the woods for a family outing, harvest squirrels and fry them up for a good home-cooked meal. Squirrel hunting is a great way for families to continue hunting through January and part of February.

There is also an opportunity for the upland game and waterfowl hunters in late winter. Crow hunting provides a chance to continue wing

shooting. Crows are considered varmints and have a hunting season which runs until the first Tuesday in March. Also, to keep your wing shooting skills sharp, **Lake City Range and Outdoor Education Center** offers trap and skeet shooting opportunities year around.

Some hunters prefer a bit of snow and cold for winter trips outdoors. Many of Missouri's small game seasons are still going strong when a new year arrives. The state's North Zone pheasant season and the statewide quail season continue through Jan. 15. South Zone duck hunting season is open to Jan. 25. Statewide seasons for geese and furbearers go through January. Hunting seasons for rabbits and squirrels both go into the middle of February. After that, hunters can still pursue coyotes, crows and "light geese."

For more information on winter hunting seasons, visit huntmissouri.com and enjoy your outdoors this winter.

— Bill Graham
Media Specialist

Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center

1401 NW Park Road, Blue Springs, MO 64015 • mdc.mo.gov/node/280



Located in Blue Springs, Missouri, one mile north of I-70 and one mile west of MO 7 on Park Road. Six trails, 1,071 wooded acres, two picnic areas, indoor wildlife viewing area, 3,000 gallon native fish and turtle aquarium, hands-on nature exhibits, gift shop, and sales of fishing and hunting permits.

NATURE CENTER HOURS:

Tuesday–Friday: 7 AM–6 PM

Saturday: 8 AM–5 PM

AREA AND TRAILS:

Daily: 7 AM–6 PM

Daylight Saving Time: 7 AM–8 PM

Closed Thanksgiving Day, day after Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years

TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 816-228-3766 to sign up for a program requiring registration on or after the first business day of that month. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy.

What's for Dinner?

Wednesdays & Saturdays • 3 PM

Walk-in (all ages)

Discover what's for dinner at Burr Oak Woods as the captive amphibians, fish and turtles enjoy their feast every Wednesday and Saturday. The snakes will be fed every other Friday (January 9 & 23 and February 6 & 20).

Snakes Alive!

January 3 • Saturday • 1:30–2:30 PM

No registration required (all ages)

Slither on in to the nature center for a scaly good time! Discover how snakes are one of the most surprising groups of animals during this hands-on interactive program. You may even get a chance to see just how snakes consume their prey.

Little Acorns: Deer

January 10 • Saturday • 10–11 AM

Registration required (ages 3–5)

Most animals are hibernating or taking shelter for the winter, but the deer are out foraging and romping in the snow. Come learn about these large mammals and how they find food and shelter during the cold winter months.

Squirrel Olympics

January 10 • Saturday • 1–2 PM

No registration required (all ages)

It may be cold outside but squirrels are still hopping and digging around in the snow. Whether you think of them as a nuisance or entertainment let's take a look at this familiar acrobatic backyard wildlife up close.

Babes in the Woods:

Hope for Snow

January 13 • Tuesday • 10–11 AM

Registration required (babes under 36 months) Just because it is winter doesn't mean you can't play outside. Join Naturalist Kathleen for some outdoor fun. If there is snow, bring your sled! Winter can be a magical time to create special memories with your little one.

Conservation Kids Club: Tracking

January 13 • Tuesday • 6:30–8 PM

Registration required (ages 7–13)

Who's been walking through my backyard? The tracks and other signs animals leave behind can tell us many things about them. Join us as we learn how to tell who has been in your neighborhood and where they might be going.

Little Acorns: Deer

January 14 • Wednesday • 10–11 AM or 1–2 PM

Registration required (ages 3–5)

Most animals are hibernating or taking shelter for the winter, but the deer are out foraging and romping in the snow. Come learn about these large mammals and how they find food and shelter during the cold winter months.

Home School: Hooray for Raptors!

January 14 • Wednesday • 10–11:30 AM

for ages 6–8, 9–11, 12–18

Registration required

Seize this opportunity to get up close



and learn about some amazing, live birds of prey! Discover astonishing adaptations of raptors and the important role they play in the food web.

Solve the Tracking Mystery

January 17 • Saturday • 10–11:30 AM

No registration required (all ages)

"That looks like a bear track!" Kids and adults will enjoy learning about tracks. Tracks reveal some of the secrets of an animal's life. Join us to unravel the mystery.

Rockin' & Readin' Nature Tales

January 31 • Saturday • 11 AM–Noon

February 28 • Saturday • 11 AM–Noon

Walk-in (ages 2+)

Join us for story hour as we lead you on fantastic nature adventures! We will meet butterflies, birds, mammals and all sorts of magnificent creatures! We will cross rivers, discover mysteries within the forest and fly across the prairies. Our imaginations are the only limits.

Recycled Bird Houses

January 31 • Saturday • 10–11 AM

Registration required (all ages)

Create a twig-embellished bird house from recycled materials for some feathered friends (wrens, chickadees, etc.) and learn how they raise their little flyers.

Are They Asleep? Hibernators

February 7 • Saturday • 10–11 AM

No registration required (all ages)

Winter is a harsh season. Learn how animals



survive the long, cold, season using hibernation and activity reduced strategies.

SPECIAL EVENT: Bringing Nature Home with Doug Tallamy and Naturescaping Workshop and Native Plant Sale. March 21 at Burr Oak Woods. See back page.



Squirrel Hunting

Squirrel hunting is a great way to introduce people to hunting. Squirrels are plentiful, fun to hunt, and can make great table fare. Join us for this exciting workshop as we explore hunting, skinning, and most importantly, cooking these bushy tailed mammals.

Registration required beginning Dec. 19 (ages 11+; ages 11–15 must be accompanied by an adult)

Orientation: January 10 (9 a.m.–1:30 p.m.) This is required to go on the hunt. Orientation will include firearm safety, squirrel hunting basics, scouting and a chance to learn new skills with some target shooting.

The Hunt: January 24 (9 a.m.–Noon) We will meet at Cooley Lake for the hunt. A mentor and equipment will be provided. Hunters ages 16 and up need to be either Hunter Education certified or to purchase an Apprentice Hunter Authorization and a small game hunting permit.

Cooking Wild Squirrel: (participants can attend Cooking Wild only if preferred) January 24 (1–3 p.m.) We will return to Burr Oak Woods to learn how to clean and prepare our game for a delicious table fare.

Babes in the Woods: Pelts, Puppets and Play

February 10 · Tuesday · 10–11 AM
Registration required (babes under 36 months)

During the winter we turn our thermostats up and add layers of clothes and blankets for warmth. Join Naturalist Kathleen for some indoor fun as we learn about animals that stay active throughout the long winter chill in this hands-on learning experience.

Conservation Kids Club: Bluebird House

February 10 · Tuesday · 6:30–8 PM
Registration required (ages 7–13)
Nothing says spring more than the eastern bluebird scouting to build a nest! In this program, discover our state bird and build a nesting box to take home for a bluebird family near you.

Little Acorns: Mighty Mammals

February 11 · Wednesday · 10–11 AM or 1–2 PM
Registration required (ages 3–5)



What is a mammal? Does it have scales, feathers or fur? Come learn what kind of animals are mammals. You never know, you may have something in common with them!

Home School: Orienteering

February 11 · Wednesday · 10–11:30 AM for ages 6–8, 9–11, 12–18 or 1–2:30 PM for ages 6–8
Registration required

Have you ever been lost? Explorers like to use tools such as maps, compasses and electronic GPS units to make sure they can find their way. Join us for some great fun as we learn how to read maps and use a compass to keep us on track!

A Sharp Knife

February 12 · Thursday · 6:30–7:30 PM
Registration required (ages 11+; ages 11–16 must be accompanied by participating adult)
Every good outdoors man or woman needs to keep a good sharp knife. Bring your knife and learn how to sharpen it and keep it sharp.

Naturally From the Heart

February 14 · Saturday · 10–11 AM or 1–2 PM
Registration required (all ages)

Need a Valentine for that special someone? Make your very own from beautiful materials that come from nature. We provide the natural materials, you provide the creativity. Join us at Burr Oak Woods to create something truly unique for your Valentine.

Maple Sugaring

February 21 · Saturday · 1–3 PM
Registration required beginning Jan. 2 (all ages) In our culture of a supermarket in every neighborhood, it is almost magical and spectacular to be able to make something delicious to eat out of liquid flowing from a tree. Savor this wonder of nature by learning how to tap trees, collect sap and make delicious syrup from native trees.

Urban Wildlife

February 28 · Saturday · 1–2 PM
No registration required (all ages)
There's a critter in my yard! As cities and suburbs expand, we move into the territory of our wildlife neighbors which can cause conflicts. Join us for a discussion of the wildlife that can be found in urban and suburban neighborhoods. What is best for both people and animals?

Burr Oak Woods offers photography contest

Did you capture something beautiful at Burr Oak Woods this year? Each year our visitors take thousands of wonderful photographs highlighting the beauty and diversity of our site. If you have a photo you'd like to share, Burr Oak Woods is hosting its annual photography competition and would like to include you! Please visit www.mdc.mo.gov/node/280 or contact Burr



Oak Woods for details. Submissions are due Friday, Feb. 28. Good luck! Photo here is last year's winner by D. Cederstrom.

Lake City Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

28505 E. Truman Road, Landahl Park, Buckner, MO 64016 • mdc.mo.gov/node/282



Located on 60 acres of forests and fields near Blue Springs, Missouri, six miles north of I-70 on MO 7 and two miles east of MO 7 on Truman Road in Landahl Park. Facilities include an outdoor education center, archery, pistol, rifle and shotgun ranges, including skeet and trap.

HOURS:

May 1–September 15

Wednesday–Sunday: Noon–6 PM

September 16–April 30

Wednesday–Sunday: Noon–4:30 PM

Closed Monday and Tuesday
and all state holidays.

FACILITIES AND FEES: Available for individual or group use. Call for information and possible restrictions.

- Rifle/pistol range: \$3 booth per hour
- Trap/Skeet: \$3 per round
- Archery range: \$3 per person per hour

TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 816-249-3194 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy.

Basic Handgun

January 4 · Sunday · 8–11:30 AM

Registration required (ages 18+)

This is a novice class for people who have little or no experience in handling and shooting a handgun. Topics that will be covered include safety in the home, types of handguns, different parts of the handgun, the variety of calibers, ammunition and marksmanship. Class includes range time.

Introduction to Skeet Shooting

January 10 · Saturday · 9–Noon

Registration required (ages 12+)

Need to improve your wing shooting skills? Why not try skeet shooting? Skeet shooting is a great way to improve your basic shotgun skills and improve your hit ratio on winged game. You may even pick up a new sport at the same time.

Beginning Archery

January 14 · Wednesday · 9–11:30 AM

Registration required (ages 12–17)

Archery has become very popular with younger people today. Many school districts are now having competition between schools and between other districts in the State. Learn more about the fundamentals of archery shooting such as proper stands, draw technique, equipment and follow through.

Family Trap Shooting

January 25 · Sunday · 9–11:30 AM

Registration required (ages 12+)

Trap shooting is a fun shooting sport to experience. This course will cover basic firearm safety, different actions on shotguns, proper shot size, proper firearm fit and shot follow through. Trap is a good way for an upland game hunter to improve their shotgun skills.

Introduction to Shotgun Reloading

February 6 · Friday · 6–8:30 PM

Registration required (adults)

Enjoy shooting clay targets but the cost of shells keep going up? Reduce the cost of shooting trap or skeet by reloading your own shotgun shells. We will show the basic equipment needed in reloading, shotgun hulls to use and the safety precautions when reloading.

Introduction to Air Rifle

February 7 · Saturday · 9–11 AM

Registration required (ages 9–16)

Are your kids interested in shooting but you don't know where or how to start? Air rifle is one of the best and safest ways to start the youth off in the sport of shooting. We will cover the basic safety of a firearm,

fundamentals of shooting, other youth programs available and any questions that might be asked over air rifles. This will be a fun and safe way for kids and their parents to learn and enjoy the sport of shooting.

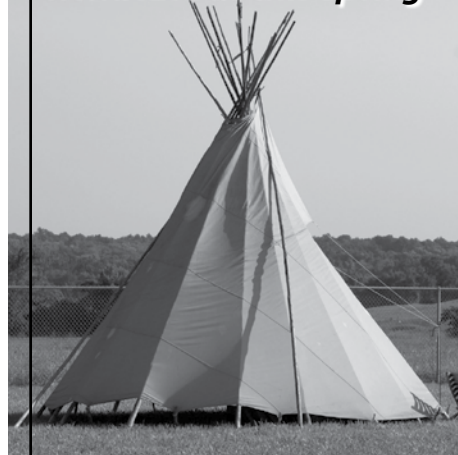
Basic Handgun

February 15 · Sunday · 8–11:30 AM

Registration required (ages 18+)

This is a novice class for people who have little or no experience in handling and shooting a handgun. Topics that will be covered include safety in the home, types of handguns, different parts of the handgun, the variety of calibers, ammunition and marksmanship. Class includes range time.

Lake City Third Annual Rendezvous this Spring



Tired of the cold? Been indoors all winter? Ready to go outdoors and experience a part of Missouri's history. The Lake City Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center will be hosting the 3rd Annual Rendezvous on April 18th, 2015. Participants of the Rendezvous will spend their weekend in period dress, living the life as those of the past. Families who visit the Rendezvous can participate in archery, shoot muzzleloading rifles and shotguns, BB gun shooting along with other surprise activities. Come enjoy a day of fun while learning about American history! Expect a full schedule of events to be posted in the March/April *Nature & You*.

Parma Woods Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

15900 NW River Road, PO Box 14024, Parkville, MO 64152 • mdc.mo.gov/node/283

Antler Academy at Parma Woods

Deer hunting is one of the most exciting outdoor activities you can participate in during the fall and winter. Deer have excellent senses that help them avoid danger. They have a very strong will to survive and are very adaptable. These characteristics combine to make the white-tailed deer one of the most challenging of all game animals to pursue.

To be successful, deer hunters must learn about the animals they pursue. This is especially true for those hunters

who are new to deer hunting or for those that don't have as much time to dedicate for hunting.

While pondering this issue, I came up with an idea for helping those interested in learning more about deer.

That's why in 2015 we have created what we

are calling the 2015 Antler Academy. The idea is that we'll get together each month for a couple hours and learn about deer and deer hunting. We'll take a look at deer through the seasons and offer some tips on how you can get involved on a year-round basis. This academy will most certainly benefit anyone interested in learning more about deer and deer hunting. These monthly sessions will cover a wide range of topics of value to all ages.

Though we're still working out some details, we've set the date to be the third Thursday of each month. We'll meet at Parma Woods Range from 6 to 8 p.m. Our kickoff session will be Jan. 15 and we'll talk about trail camera surveys and post-season scouting techniques. Please look for full details to follow at www.mdc.mo.gov/node/283

—Nathan Woodland
Parma Woods Range Supervisor



Discover Nature: Sausage and Jerky Making

January 7 · Wednesday · 6–8 PM

Registration required (all ages)

With a few simple tools it's easy to make great sausage and jerky. Whether you are just thinking about giving it a try, or are a jerky and sausage making seasoned veteran; you will benefit from this class. During this class we'll show you some of the equipment options then take you through the basic processes of making different sausages and jerky. We might even give you a recipe or two.

Creating Cartridges: Intro to Metallic Reloading

January 17 · Saturday · 9 AM–1 PM

Registration required (ages 11+; ages 11–17 must be accompanied by an adult)

Reloading cartridges is a great way to enjoy your firearms even after the season is over. Whether your goals include squeezing out additional accuracy or shooting more for less money, this class will give you the foundation needed to start making safe cartridges right away.

Discover Nature: Winter Tree ID

February 22 · Sunday · 9 AM–Noon

Registration required (all ages)

Many common trees are relatively easy to identify in the summer when they have all their leaves. As winter approaches these leaves fall off and the trees look different. Attend this hands-on workshop to learn the tricks to trees so you know your trees throughout the seasons.

Firearm Selection for the Beginner

February 25 · Wednesday · 6–8 PM

Registration required (ages 11+; ages 11–17 must be accompanied by an adult)

With literally thousands to choose from, choosing the right firearm for you can seem like a daunting task. Our range staff is often asked what gun is the best to buy. The answer generally given is, "it depends." Join our certified firearms instructors as we take you through a systematic approach to choosing the right gun for you.



Located in Platte County, Missouri. Go west of downtown Parkville on Route FF to River Road, then west 3 miles to the entrance located just west of I-435. Facilities are available for individual or group use and include a rifle/pistol/shotgun range, and archery range.

HOURS:

May 1–September 30

Monday and Tuesday: 2 PM–8 PM

Friday–Sunday: 10 AM–4 PM

October 1–April 30

Friday–Tuesday: Noon–4:30 PM

Closed Wednesday and Thursday and all state holidays.

FACILITIES AND FEES:

- Rifle/pistol/shotgun/range: \$3 booth per hour
- Archery range: \$3 per person per hour

TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 816-891-9941 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list.

Introduction to Competitive Handgun Shooting

February 28 · Saturday · 9 AM–3 PM

Registration required (ages 11+; ages 11–17 must be accompanied by an adult)

Competitive handgun shooting is a worldwide activity that provides enjoyment for many shooters. Did you know that handgun shooting is even in the Olympics? Even though thousands participate, few shooters are aware of the opportunities that exist locally. In this program, our experienced staff will take you through some of the more popular handgun sports and teach you what it takes to get involved.

Anita B. Gorman **Discovery Center**

4750 Troost Avenue, Kansas City, MO 64110 • mdc.mo.gov/node/281



Located in Kansas City, Missouri, just east of the Plaza near 47th and Troost. Six hands-on workshops explore Missouri's fish, forest and wildlife with a Lewis and Clark theme. Discovery Center is a showcase for environmental architecture with four acres of native landscaping. Buy books and hunting/fishing permits at the gift shop.

HOURS:

Monday–Friday: 8 AM–5 PM
1st and 3rd Tuesdays: 8 AM–9 PM
1st and 3rd Saturdays: 9 AM–4 PM
Closed all state holidays.

TO REGISTER FOR A PROGRAM:

Programs are free. Call 816-759-7300 to sign up for a program requiring registration.

Wildlife Survival: Mammals

January 3 • Saturday • 10 AM–2:30 PM
Walk-in (all ages)

Mammals in Missouri do not use migration as a way to survive the winter. So how do they survive? And what about the rest of the year? How do different animals survive in their individual habitats in the spring, summer and fall? Join us as we use hands-on activities to explore the world of Missouri mammals and how they have adapted to our climate.

Nature Nuts Storytime

January 3 • Saturday • 10–11 AM or 11 AM–Noon or 1–2 PM
January 17 • Saturday • 10–11 AM or 11 AM–Noon or 1–2 PM
Walk-in (ages 3–8; all welcome)

Join volunteer naturalists for a fantastic journey through forests, streams and other magical places as they read select books. Children will participate in a hands-on nature activity.

Scout Program

January 6 • Tuesday • Evening
February 3 • Tuesday • Evening

Registration required (scouts)

Scout leaders, are you lacking expertise or equipment to complete conservation badges? Bring your troop to the Discovery Center. Education Specialist staff will provide a program helping your scouts with rank achievement. All Missouri scout groups of 10–24 participants are welcome to schedule a free program. Please contact the Discovery Center at (816) 759-7300 to schedule.

Wildlife Survival: Birds

January 17 • Saturday • 10 AM–2:30 PM
Walk-in (all ages)

Brrrrr! Possessing the right “tools” is the key to survival for birds as the wintery chill surrounds us! Join us as we observe various birds on the grounds of the Discovery Center and learn about the specialized structures that help birds survive in their native habitats. Then step inside, warm up and participate in the hands-on exploration and investigation of different types of skulls and beaks! Can you identify the “tools” these birds possess and the ways the birds use them to help survive during cold weather.

Artist Meet and Greet

January 20 • Tuesday • 6–7 PM
Walk-in (all ages)

Meet artist Dwight Bailey who creates chip carvings as well as relief carvings of Missouri animals. He has been creating this artwork for over a decade. His pieces will be on display through February.

Resident Reptiles – Living among Turtles and Snakes in KC

January 20 • Tuesday • 7 PM

No registration required (adults; ages 14+ are welcome to attend with an adult participant)
Join us for a home-owners’ crash course on reptiles in the KC area. This program will include a demonstration on how to identify native reptiles as well as a discussion on ways to tolerate, enjoy and promote them on your property. The many benefits and wonders of these critters will be explored in detail during this hour-long adventure into the reptilian world.

Scout Discovery Day Special Event

February 7 • Saturday • 10 AM–2:30 PM
Walk-in (all ages) Girls, Boys, Brownies, Cubs, Cadets and Webelos - join us for a day of hands-on activities designed



for fun and rank achievement. We'll have stations set up for you to learn new skills and achieve conservation badge requirements. Explore the life of animals and plants that call Missouri home. Try your hand at a new skill

such as tree identification, knot tying, fire starting, compass orienteering and more. Both individual scouts and troops are welcome. Don't miss out on the fun this Scout Discovery Day!

Nature Nuts Storytime

February 7 • Saturday • 10–11 AM or 11 AM–Noon or 1–2 PM

February 21 • Saturday • 10–11 AM or 11 AM–Noon or 1–2 PM

Walk-in (ages 3–8; all welcome)

Join volunteer naturalists for a fantastic journey through forests, streams and other magical places as they read select books. Children will participate in a hands-on nature activity.

Becoming a Wildlife Veterinarian The Coolest Job on the Planet

February 17 • Tuesday • 7 PM

No registration required (adults; ages 14+ are welcome to attend with an adult participant)

Ever wonder what it's like to walk on the wild side? Join MDC's first-ever wildlife veterinarian as she talks about what it's *really* like to work in wildlife health, and what it takes to get such a cool career. We will also spend some time going over neat cases from the laboratory and the field, and time will be left for questions and informal discussion.

MDC Discover Nature programs help Missourians discover and explore nature while providing expert instruction and hands-on activities.



Urban Woodsman

February 21 · Saturday · 10 AM–2:30 PM

Walk-in (all ages)

Uncomfortable trying to light a campfire or swinging a hatchet or maul to split firewood? These are a few of the basics every guy (and gal) should know for surviving even the toughest urban winter. Spend a day mastering useful outdoor basics like knot tying, fire-starting, water purification, reading a compass, shelter building, flint knapping and how to tap a maple tree for syrup.

Woodcarver exhibits work this winter

During the months of January and February, Discovery Center will host the artwork of Dwight Bailey. Bailey specializes in chip carving as well as relief carving and has created unique art since 2003.

The artist lives in Gladstone with his wife, Sandy. Bailey spends anywhere from 15 to 50 hours preparing the wood and doing the intricate carvings depicting native wildlife. The Discovery Center will host a special reception with the artist 6 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 20. Visitors can meet Bailey, admire his art and ask questions about his creative process.

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Discovery Center, Parma Woods and Lake City Shooting Ranges will be closed for these state holidays:

New Year's Day,
Thursday January 1

Martin Luther King Day,
Monday January 19

Lincoln's Birthday,
Thursday, February 12

Washington's Birthday,
Monday February 16



you burn it. But if you prefer to buy firewood, understand the different units of measurement which are sometimes confusing. Missouri law requires that for any sale of firewood a bill of sale be provided showing the name and address of the purchaser and the seller, and the cords or fractions of a cord involved in the sale.

A cord is the standard unit of measurement for

firewood which measures 128 cubic feet. That means a stack measuring four feet high, four feet wide and eight feet long. A half of a cord of wood is sometimes called a rick, even though that word often is used to mean a pile of wood of no certain size. Another common term used in selling firewood is a face cord which is a stack of wood which measures 4 feet high by 8 feet long which is really only a half cord if made up of 24 inch logs.

Beware that buying firewood in the city at a convenience store or home improvement store is convenient but expensive. A standard bundle of plastic wrapped firewood is usually labeled as three-fourths of a cubic foot and sells for four to five dollars. That comes out to about \$650 to \$800 a cord!

To learn more about firewood and fire starting join urban woodsmen Pat and Steve at our urban campsite at the Discovery Center on Saturday, Feb. 17. We'll be staying warm splitting firewood, boiling maple sap into syrup, flipping flapjacks and sharing tips and tricks on surviving winter outdoors in the city.

— Excerpts from *Missouri Conservationist*,
January 2007 by John Tuttle

Firewood Basics

People have always been fascinated by fire. Whether in a campfire, cookstove or fireplace, the red flames seem to capture everyone's attention.

What are the best woods for burning? Any wood will burn, but how good the wood is for fuel depends on its density and moisture content. Firewood should be dried and cured after cutting for at least six months. The bark of properly dried firewood will be loose enough to pull off by hand.

The species of wood that have the most energy content (in order) are Osage orange, hickory, locust, oaks, hard maple and ash. Cottonwood, cedar, pine, elm and sycamore burn fast and have much less heat energy. The amount of heat energy you get from wood depends on the efficiency of the fireplace or stove. An open fireplace seems nice and cozy on a snowy day but nearly all the heat goes up the chimney while drawing cold air into the house.

There's an old adage that says wood you cut and split yourself warms you twice, both when you cut it and when

Bringing Nature Home

March 21 at Burr Oak Woods



Doug Tallamy is a professor in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware where he has authored 80 research articles and has taught

Insect Taxonomy, Behavioral Ecology, Humans and Nature, Insect Ecology and other courses for 32 years. Chief among his research goals is to better understand the many ways

insects interact with plants and how such interactions determine the diversity of animal communities. His book "Bringing Nature Home; How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in Our Gardens" was published by Timber Press in 2007 and was awarded the 2008 silver medal by the Garden Writer's Association. "The Living Landscape" co-authored with Rick Darke, was published in 2014. Doug was awarded the Garden Club of America Margaret Douglas Medal for Conservation and the Tom Dodd Jr. Award of Excellence in 2013.

Bringing Nature Home

March 21 · Saturday

1–2:15 PM – Meet and greet, and book signing

2:30–3:30 PM – Program

Registration required beginning Feb. 3 (adults) You won't want to miss this incredible opportunity to meet special guest speaker, Doug Tallamy as he helps us to understand the importance of nature at home. This event is sponsored by MDC, the Osage Trails Chapter of Missouri Master Naturalists and the Missouri Wildflower Nursery. You won't want to miss out on the drawing for door prizes donated by the Missouri Master Gardeners.

Because our yards and gardens are essential parts of the terrestrial ecosystems that sustain humans and the life around us, it is essential that we keep them in working order. Tallamy will discuss the important ecological roles of the plants in our landscapes, emphasize the ecological, educational, physical and emotional benefits of designing landscapes with these roles in mind and explore the consequences of failing to do so. Managing landscapes in this crowded world carries both moral and ecological responsibilities that we can no longer ignore.

Naturescaping Workshop and Native Plant Sale

March 21 · Saturday · 8 AM–12:45 PM

Registration required beginning Feb. 3 (adults)

Beautify your landscape with some of Missouri's best natural resources, native plants! Learn how to save time, money and create wildlife habitat with educational sessions on native rock gardens, pressed plant art, butterfly gardening, wild edibles, treescaping and many more.

The Native Plant Sale is open from 12:45–1:15 p.m. for workshop participants and 1:15–3:45 p.m. for the public. Check out the description for Dr. Tallamy's lecture later in the day! (Registration is separate for these two programs)

Volunteer Corner

Volunteers are an important asset to the Missouri Department of Conservation and help provide outstanding customer service. We would like to recognize the following volunteers for their unselfish service in 2014:

BURR OAK WOODS

100 hours: Talena Carpenter,

Courtney Hamilton, James Seymore
Mary Sumner, Carole Swenson, Terry
Talley, Joyce Watson

200 hours: Steven Beal, Vanessa Eades,
Jack Merriott, Susan Smith

300 hours: Jack Corrigan

500 hours: Stephanie Baldridge,
Jean Jones

750 hours: Tanya Jones

1000 hours: Lowell Burns, Theresa
Enderle, Dianna Lentz, Andi Rittel,
Deanna Rittel

1250 hours: Donna Braughton,
Pam Bussell

1500 hours: Joe Braughton, John Rittel

2000 hours: Sharon Hutcheson

3000 hours: Frances Mathews

LAKE CITY SHOOTING RANGE

100 hours: Matthew Albertson,
Robert (Len) Horton

250 hours: Gary Combs, Victor Mistele

500 hours: Jael Dawson, Richard Galvin,
Allan Morris, Robert Rubin

700 hours: Dwight (Bob) Fitts

900 hours: Tom Van Biber

1250 hours: Richard Dale,
William (Al) Dobyns

DISCOVERY CENTER

100 hours: Amanda Jones, Journey
Eubank, Abby Elias

300 hours: Bill Taft

500 hours: Colleen Murbach, Chris Taft

2000 hours: Tom Foster

PARMA WOODS SHOOTING RANGE

100 hours: Danny McMullen

400 hours: John Kennedy, Kevin Clossick

750 hours: Patrick Liposchak,
James Randolph

1000 hours: Chris Charles

2000 hours: Alan Bahl